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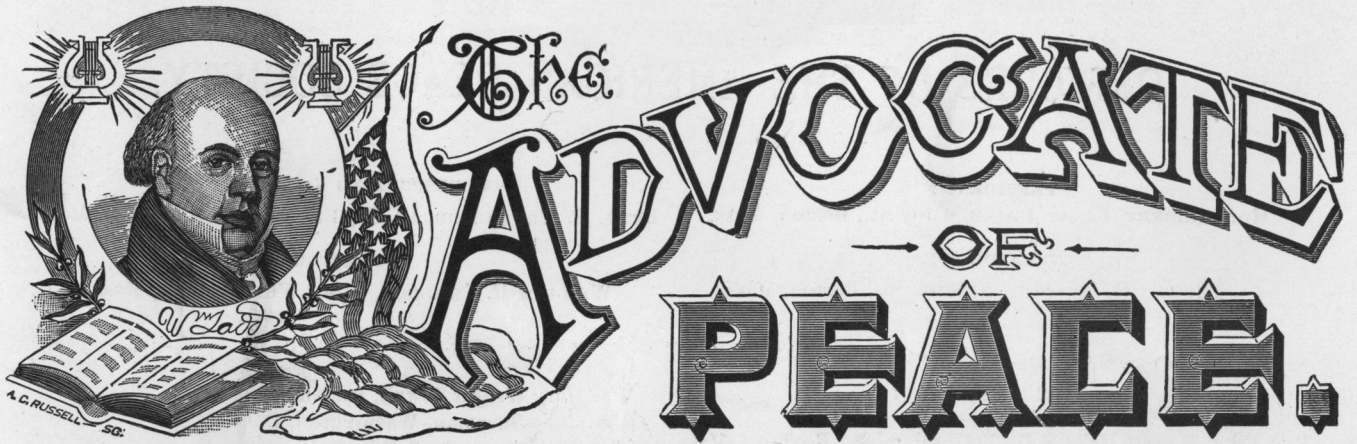
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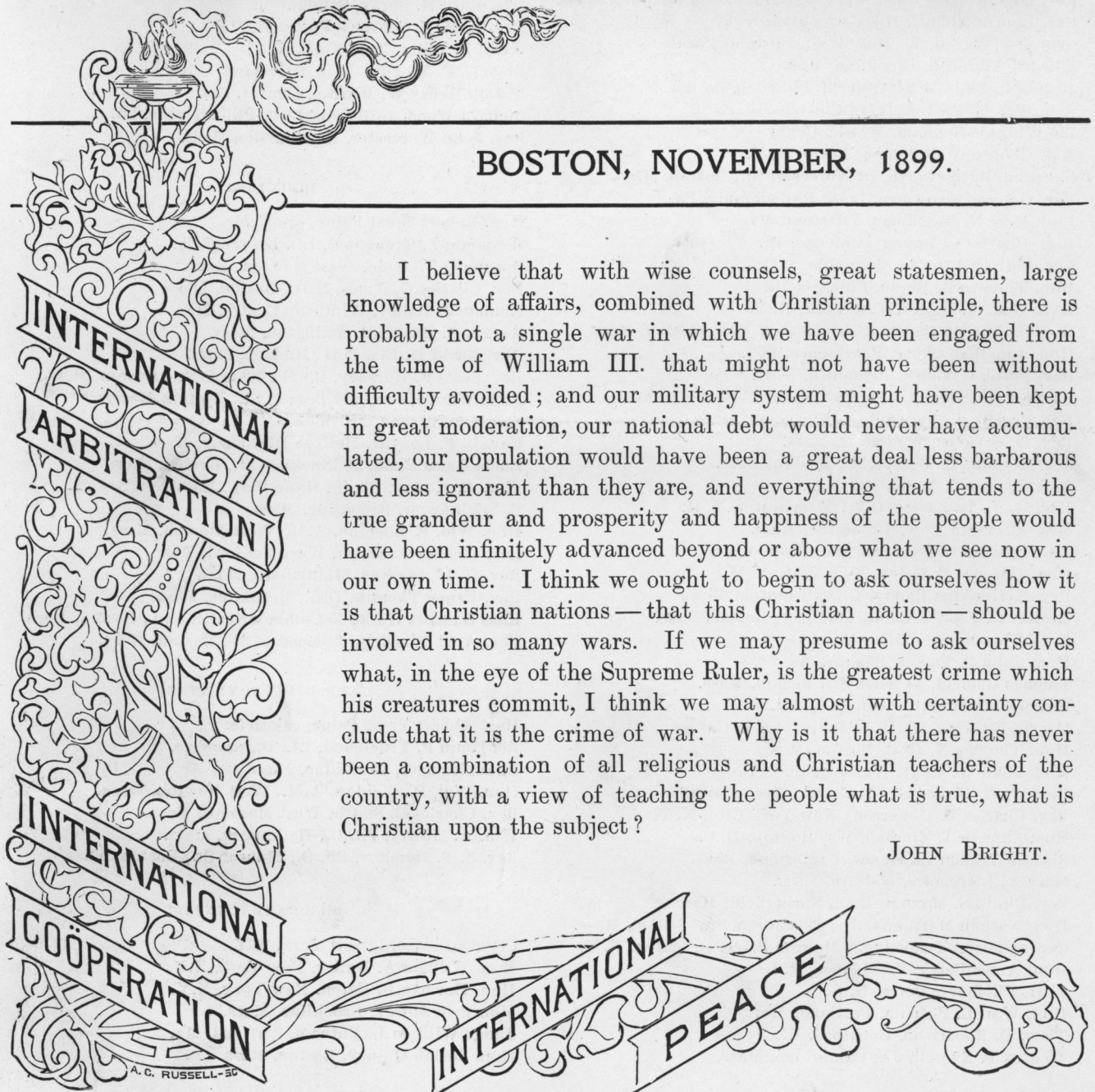
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BOSTON, NOVEMBER, 1899.

I believe that with wise counsels, great statesmen, large knowledge of affairs, combined with Christian principle, there is probably not a single war in which we have been engaged from the time of William III. that might not have been without difficulty avoided; and our military system might have been kept in great moderation, our national debt would never have accumulated, our population would have been a great deal less barbarous and less ignorant than they are, and everything that tends to the true grandeur and prosperity and happiness of the people would have been infinitely advanced beyond or above what we see now in our own time. I think we ought to begin to ask ourselves how it is that Christian nations — that this Christian nation — should be involved in so many wars. If we may presume to ask ourselves what, in the eye of the Supreme Ruler, is the greatest crime which his creatures commit, I think we may almost with certainty conclude that it is the crime of war. Why is it that there has never been a combination of all religious and Christian teachers of the country, with a view of teaching the people what is true, what is Christian upon the subject?

JOHN BRIGHT.



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## The Venezuela Boundary Award.

The Anglo-Venezuelan arbitration commission announced its decision on the third of last month. The commission had been in session at Paris nearly four months. In addition to the printed argument of each country, the cases for Venezuela and Great Britain were also presented orally in a most able and exhaustive way by counsel, Ex-President Harrison being chief attorney for Venezuela and Sir Richard Webster for Great Britain. No case ever submitted to arbitration has been more thoroughly and fairly examined than this. It will therefore go down in history as one of the most signal instances of the value and practicability of arbitration in serious disputes. The only shadow upon it is that it was undertaken in the first place by Great Britain only under the threat of compulsion. The outcome of the case ought to satisfy

any nation that it can always safely trust a controversy to impartial arbitration, however sure it may be that its contention is well-grounded.

One cannot help contrasting the spirit in which the announcement of this award is received with that which was manifested when President Cleveland's message on the subject was published in December, 1895. Then the populace, because of the possibility of war, went wild with excitement and the newspapers flamed and snapped for days, until a better spirit arose and finally controlled the situation. How much real interest in the arbitration of the controversy demanded by Mr. Cleveland was at the bottom of the flurry? The answer to this question is found in the lack of attention to the results or even to the proceedings of the Paris tribunal. As soon as all prospect of war had disappeared, public interest in the matter died away. If, instead of the announcement of the award just made, we had had the news of a triumph in war over Great Britain, the nation would have gone intoxicated with the enthusiasm of self-glorification for days and weeks. If interest in right and justice toward Venezuela and toward other lands were what it ought to be, were what with infinite gush it professes to be, we should have had a great national outburst of enthusiasm over the decision of the Paris tribunal—a really great event in the progress of civilization.

The decision of the tribunal is considered a compromise. It was made unanimously, the British and the American members voting together. Though appearing to bear the marks of compromise, the judgment rendered is probably much nearer the right than if it had sustained entirely the contention of either party. Cases have gone to arbitration in which the right was wholly on one side, but it was clearly not so in this case. It has been objected to arbitration that its outcome is so often a compromise. But this, instead of being an argument against it, is one of the strongest in its support. In nearly all international controversies of importance right lies more or less on each side. It is the duty of tribunals, as it is their general practice, to decide how far this is the case and allow each party its dues. If the Anglo-Venezuelan tribunal had given the case wholly to Great Britain or to Venezuela, under the evidences exam-